

May 29, 2014 Community Discussion Meeting - **Downtown YMCA**
 "Architecture, Engineering, Design and Environment Interest Areas"
Question Responses and Small-Table Discussion Summary
 Attendance - 6 people (plus 4 Committee members and 3 staff)

Identifying long-term investment spending priorities; Determining how best for Wichita to grow over the next 20 years -

QUESTION: Prioritize future City spending within the following three general categories of infrastructure investment (Priority #1, #2, #3) (6 complete responses)

<u>Spending Priority</u>	<u>Categories of Investment</u>		
83% #1	17% #2	0% #3	Maintaining and replacing what the city currently has
17% #1	66% #2	17% #3	Making enhancements to what the city currently has
0% #1	17% #2	83% #3	Expanding the city's current system of public assets

QUESTION: Check future City spending priorities within each of the following types of infrastructure projects (complete responses)

Maintaining and replacing what the city currently has:	<u>Spending Priority</u>		
	Low	Med.	High
<i>Repairing and maintaining existing local streets</i>	0	4	2
<i>Replacing and maintaining aging water & sewer lines</i>	0	1	5
<i>Maintaining existing parks and recreation centers</i>	0	5	1
<i>Maintaining existing cultural arts and entertainment facilities</i>	1	5	0
<i>Maintaining existing libraries</i>	1	3	2
<i>Maintaining existing transit system</i>	1	3	2
<i>Maintaining existing fire and police facilities</i>	1	2	3

Expanding the city's current system of public assets:	<u>Spending Priority</u>		
	Low	Med.	High
<i>Constructing the NW Bypass (Goddard to Maize)</i>	5	0	1
<i>Adding new streets</i>	3	3	0
<i>Adding new water & sewer lines</i>	1	5	0
<i>Adding sewer treatment plant capacity</i>	1	3	2
<i>Adding new parks</i>	2	2	2
<i>Adding new fire stations and upgrading police facilities</i>	2	4	0

Making enhancements to what the city currently has:	<u>Spending Priority</u>		
	Low	Med.	High
<i>Kellogg freeway improvements to Goddard and Butler County</i>	3	2	1
<i>Constructing South Area Parkway Bypass (around south Wichita)</i>	6	0	0
<i>Securing long-term water supply</i>	0	2	4
<i>Upgrading existing parks</i>	1	2	3
<i>Upgrading existing cultural arts & entertainment facilities</i>	0	6	0
<i>Upgrading existing libraries</i>	1	4	1
<i>Major transit system/service improvements (Transit Vision 2013)</i>	0	3	3

DISCUSSION: *What projects and investments are most critical to Wichita's future?*

- Projects that maintain our long-term water supply and water/sewer system
- Enhancements to our existing park facilities and cultural arts facilities
- Maintenance of our local street system
- Investments in public transit and libraries
- Maintaining our fire and police facilities
- Finishing improvements to the Kellogg freeway system and the NW Bypass in order to attract businesses/jobs

QUESTION: *Recognizing that growth in all areas of Wichita is necessary for enhancing the quality of life in our community, rank the following three Wichita growth areas according to which you think **best** supports the future growth, prosperity and quality of life of our community (1=best, 2=second best, 3=third best) (6 complete responses)*

Rank			
1	Established Urban Core	100% best	0% 2 nd best 0% 3 rd best
2	Downtown	0% best	83% 2 nd best 17% 3 rd best
3	Suburbs	0% best	17% 2 nd best 83% 3 rd best

% of Respondents Currently Living in:

Suburbs	50%
Established Urban Core	33%
Other	17%
Downtown	0%

DISCUSSION: *How best should Wichita grow over the next 20 years?*

- Vitality and growth with the urban core needs to be a priority for our community – a vibrant downtown is intertwined with a strong urban core
- Need to maintain what we have in the suburbs as well

Creating an effective infrastructure investment decision-making process for the long-term -

DISCUSSION: *What would you want an elected official to consider when making decisions about investing in new capital projects, modifying existing projects, or eliminating existing capital projects?*

- Projects that have a multiple benefits to our community (e.g. stormwater detention facility that also provides park/open space opportunities during dry periods)
- Projects that build upon other projects and/or spur private investment
- Consideration for both the number of citizens impacted and the degree of impact across the various segments of our community
- Cost-reduction opportunities and best practice considerations
- Return-on-initial investment and impact to the local economy
- Whether a project investment will encourage people to stay in Wichita or re-locate to Wichita
- Projects that enhance quality of life (walkability, libraries, health and safety) to the seniors and children of our community

Establishing important infrastructure investment decision-making criteria and considerations -

QUESTION: Listed below are important criteria and considerations to guide future community infrastructure investment spending and cost-reduction decisions. Please check the two (2) **most** important and the two (2) **least** important. (6 complete responses)

Importance		<u>Decision-making criteria & considerations</u>
<u>Least</u>	<u>Most</u>	
0	2	Promotes economic growth and job creation
0	3	Advances our community quality of life
0	3	Advances community health and safety
0	2	Creates a place where future generations will want to live, work and play
2	0	Priority as identified in existing adopted plans (e.g. the city/county comprehensive plan)
3	1	Essential for the future physical growth and development of our community
0	1	Demonstrated ability and commitment to maintain the project
0	0	<i>Other</i> - Careful monitoring of public/private investment
1	0	<i>Other</i> - Short-term benefit projects
0	1	<i>Other</i> - Foundational, multiple-benefits projects that contribute to/build our community

DISCUSSION: What are the most important decision-making criteria?

- Promoting economic growth, job creation; advancing our community quality of life (e.g. parks benefit people of all ages); and advancing community health and safety, are key aspects of creating a place where future generations will want to live, work and play
- Long-term investments that will promote economic growth
- Projects that provide multiple benefits/value added (e.g. parks and drainage improvement projects)
- Demonstrated ability and commitment to maintain our investments is very important
- Can't be locked into existing plans ... need to be flexible in our investment decision-making criteria to respond to future needs and opportunities as they arise

Any other things or issues needing to be addressed or considered in the Community Investments Plan? -

DISCUSSION:

- Need to recognize the long-term growth goals of other cities in close proximity to Wichita
- Wichita needs to manage its future urban growth and expansion – don't just grab land for the sake of expansion, but think about infrastructure and servicing costs of annexation (and how/who will pay for them)
- Coordinate with other jurisdictions (municipal and school) on major infrastructure or facility planning and decision-making
- Evaluate those projects that don't get implemented as a result of the investment decisions that are made
- Look at alternatives that can make a project less expensive or provide better services/results